

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
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/090 W

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R 021509Z JUN 77  
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INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
T : PINT EG  
SUBJECT: "UNDERGROUND" COMMUNISTS INDICTED FOR INCITING JANUARY RIOTS

REF: CAIRO 6179

SUMMARY. GOE HAS INDICTED 176 FOR ORGANIZATION OF "SECRET  
COMMUNIST GROUPS" WHICH ALLEGEDLY ENCOURAGED AND PARTICIPATED  
IN JANUARY RIOTS. SOME WILL BE TRIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
EXCEPTIONAL SECURITY MEASURES DECREED AFTER RIOTS FOR CRIMES  
COMMITTED AFTER THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. GOE LIKELY TO APPLY  
STERN JUSTICE BUT AVOID IMAGE OF REPRESSIVENESS. END  
SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR QALYUBI HANDED DOWN JUNE 1  
INDICTMENTS AGAINST 176 PERSONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN "CLANDESTINE  
COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PREPARED THE GROUND FOR JANUARY  
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18-19 RIOTS." IN PRESS CONFERENCE, QALYUBI SAID THAT 81 OF  
DEFENDENTS HAD CREATED ORGANIZATION CALLED EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST  
WORKERS PARTY WHOSE AIM WAS OVERTHROW OF STATE BY USE OF  
FORCE AND TERRORISM. OTHER TACTICS INCLUDED "SECRET PUBLICATIONS",  
LEAFLETING, SENSATIONAL PROPAGANDA, AND STREET CORNER ORATORY.  
ALL METHODS WERE EMPLOYED IN ENCOURAGING "ACTS OF SABOTAGE AND  
WIDESCALE DISTURBANCES" OF JANUARY 18-19.

2. THIRTY-EIGHT OF THE 176 DEFENDENTS ACCUSED OF FORMING OTHER ORGANIZATION, CALLED "EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST PARTY" (TINY CPE HAS BEEN AROUND FOR MANY YEARS), WHICH ALSO AIMED AT OVERTHROW REGIME. AS EVIDENCE, PROSECUTOR CITED PAMPHLETS AND PUBLICATIONS ISSUED BY BOTH ORGANIZATIONS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF SOME OF DEFENDENTS WHEN ARRESTED. REST OF DEFENDENTS ACCUSED OF "CIRCULATING FALSE RUMORS, AND AROUSING HATRED AND CONTEMPT OF THE REGIME" WITH SECRET PUBLICATIONS, ORATORY, LEAFLETING, AND POSTERS.

3. NO MENTION MADE IN REPORTS THUS FAR OF TWO OTHER SECRET COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR JUST AFTER JANUARY RIOTS: "REVOLUTIONARY CURRENT" AND "JANUARY 8 ORGANIZATION." LIST OF NAMES OF ACCUSED HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED YET.

4. QALYUBI ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT TRIALS OF DEFENDENTS ACCUSED OF RIOTING, LOOTING OR OTHERWISE DISTURBING THE PEACE IN JANUARY RIOTS WILL BEGIN WITHIN A WEEK IN ALEXANDRIA, GIZA, AND CAIRO. TWO HUNDRED FORTY-NINE ARRESTEES, FOR WHOM INDICTMENTS PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED (REFTEL), WILL BE TRIED.

5. MOST INTERESTING ELEMENT IN QALYUBI ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ALLEGATION THAT 17 OF DEFENDENTS HAD COMMITTED CRIMES AFTER EXCEPTIONAL FEBRUARY SECURITY MEASURES WENT INTO EFFECT. PROVISIONS, WHICH SPECIFY MAXIMUM PENALTY OF DEATH, WOULD THEREFORE APPLY TO THIS GROUP, QALYUBI SAID. HE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC CRIMES INVOLVED.

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7. COMMENT: NOT CLEAR JUST HOW GOE PLANS TO APPROACH POLITICAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF "COMMUNISTS". SADAT HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MADE CLEAR THAT HE WILL NOT BE LENIENT WITH CONSPIRATORS AS OPPOSED TO SIMPLE RIOTERS AND DELINQUENTS. ON OTHER HAND, DESPITE OMINOUS NOTE ON APPLICATION OF EXCEPTIONAL SECURITY MEASURES AGAINST SOME OF RIOTERS, SADAT AND GOE WILL PROBABLY PROMOTE IMAGE OF STERN JUSTICE, BUT SEEK TO AVOID IMPRESSION OF VINDICTIVENESS OR OLD-TIME REPRESSIVENESS. OTHER FACTOR IS NEW LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES, NOW BEING FORMULATED, WHICH SEEMS RESTORE PROCESS OF LIBERALIZATION DAMPENED BY JANUARY RIOTS AND THEIR AFTERMATH. AGAIN, GOE MAY SEE DISADVANTAGE IN ALLOWING WHAT MANY WILL SEE AS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL TRIALS TO DETRACT FROM POSITIVE IMAGE OF NEW PARTY LAW. BEST BET IS THAT GOE WILL RESERVE ITS WRATH FOR SYMBOLIC FEW OF ACCUSED, PERHAPS THOSE AGAINST WHICH IT HAS MOST IRON-CLAD CASES, AND DEAL MORE LIGHTLY WITH THE REST. SENIOR MARXISTS AND COMMUNISTS ARE NOT BEING DETAINED, SO LIST WILL INCLUDE ONLY RELATIVE UNKNOWNNS IN ANY CASE. WE DOUBT THAT

DEATH SENTENCES WILL BE HANDED DOWN OR, IF PRONOUNCED, CARRIED  
OUT.  
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## Message Attributes

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